

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 65  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the host railroads and their respective representatives for making the "Spirit of Tennessee" Bicentennial Train Project an astounding success.

WHEREAS, in 1996, Tennesseans from all walks of life proudly celebrated two hundred years of statehood, reflecting fondly upon an illustrious history of leadership in agriculture, commerce and industry, while looking forward to maintaining an established tradition of hard work, excellent craft, innovation and global impact, all within a diversified economy; and

WHEREAS, of all the official Bicentennial functions and events, none captured the true spirit and panoramic heritage of the Volunteer State more effectively than did the "Spirit of Tennessee" Bicentennial Train Tour; and

WHEREAS, departing from Union City on July 4, 1996, the "Spirit of Tennessee" Bicentennial Train traversed the vast and varied terrain of our state, from Memphis to Bristol, before finally ending its journey in the State Capital on November 9; and

WHEREAS, the "Spirit of Tennessee" Bicentennial Train project more than fulfilled its goals of (1) creating among Tennesseans a sense of pride in their accomplishments and interest in their state by telling the story of its innovative uses of natural resources and resulting development of its agricultural, commercial and

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industrial base, and (2) creating an educational, entertaining, innovative, family-oriented venue that offered a forum for Tennesseans to prepare for the future by experiencing the past; and

WHEREAS, the “Spirit of Tennessee” Bicentennial Train depicted the distinguished history and rich heritage of the Volunteer State via a thematic storyline that was vividly brought to life by means of three separate train cars featuring nine enthralling exhibits with numerous multimedia presentations; and

WHEREAS, without a doubt, much of the “Spirit of Tennessee” Bicentennial Train Tour’s remarkable success is directly attributable to the dedication and hard work of the participating host railroads and their respective representatives, for whom no task was too trivial, no detail too small; and

WHEREAS, keeping the train on the tracks and the engines stoked for CSX Transportation, Inc. were: R.H. Young, Assistant Vice-President, Passenger Services; John Hovatter, Director, Passenger Services; Ray A. Shields; Mark Spaulding; B.L. Kelsey; J.W. Miller; W.E. Freeman; R.L. McDonald; E.W. Moore; C.G. Browning; R.T. Mash; G. A. Hunt; and Tom Benson; and

WHEREAS, the following people conducted the business of the Illinois Central Railroad Company with the utmost professionalism: E. Hunter Harrison, President and Chief Executive Officer, John D. Mc Pherson, Senior Vice-President, Operations; Tom J. Goodwine, Superintendent, Transportation; L. W. King; Jeff L. Liepelt; David E. Wallis; and Joe Hunt; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that the train always pulled out of the station on time were the following people from the Norfolk Southern Railway Company: David R. Goode,

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer; Robert A. Lovelace, Director-Staff Services; Robert C. Fort, Assistant Vice-President, Public Relations; John F. Corcoran, Vice-President, Public Affairs; Robert A. Pippin; and Kathy Holbrook; and

WHEREAS, the engine was supplied by the Tennessee Shortline Railroad Hosts, all railroad and personnel of talent and ability: R.J. Corman Railroad Company, represented by Ron Boles; East Tennessee Railway Corporation, represented by Keith Holley; Kentucky West Tennessee Railway Company, represented by Earl Anderson; Nashville and Eastern Railroad Corporation, represented by William J. Drunsic and Craig Wade; Tennessee Southern Railroad, represented by Dennis Prince; and the Walking Horse and Eastern Railroad Company, represented by Richard Abernathy; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to these exemplary railroads and their accomplished officers and employees who, in the true spirit of the Volunteer State, offered a singularly productive helping hand to Tennessee's Bicentennial celebration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the host railroads and their respective representatives upon their meritorious efforts which made the "Spirit of Tennessee" Bicentennial Train Tour an astounding success, salute their consummate professionalism in coordinating the timetable for the train, and commend them upon a job well done in all aspects of the undertaking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

